

**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
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28 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Representative Ogden Reid's Request for Congressional  
Investigation of Alleged Narcotics Traffic From Southeast  
Asia.

1. During the Director's briefing this morning, Representative Ogden R. Reid (D., N. Y.) contacted me in the Committee room and told me that he has written the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee concerning the information that has been published recently concerning sources of drugs and efforts that have been taken to stay the flow. He said he is not interested in what has happened in the past but in cutting off sources of drugs in the United States. He said he does not want to see the Agency embarrassed by this flood of publicity and doesn't really know himself whether there should be hearings or not. It is his feeling there will not be any hearings "without talking to us." He closed by stating that narcotics are a big problem in his district. I did not comment on his statements but thanked him for the information.

2. I stopped by his office later and received a copy of the letter and covering news release. The Director and appropriate Agency offices are being furnished copies of the letter and news release.



Assistant Legislative Counsel

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FROM  
**REPRESENTATIVE  
OGDEN R. REID**

Approved For Release 2007/02/07 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000300230048-8

**NEWS RELEASE**

26th Congressional District • New York

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY A.M. JULY 27, 1972

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Patricia Ryan (202) 225-6506

WASHINGTON, D.C. (JULY 27, 1972) -- Congressman Ogden R. Reid (D-NY) today revealed that he has called for a full-scale Congressional investigation into charges that the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department have been actively involved in illegal narcotics traffic from Southeast Asia.

In a letter to the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released here, Congressman Reid urged open hearings and called for employment of the Committee's seldom used subpoena power to assure agency cooperation.

Noting that "narcotics are literally killing thousands of Americans annually," the Congressman described the implications of involvement by U.S. agencies as "chilling."

Congressman Reid's action followed publication earlier this week of a report from a Yale researcher who spent 18 months investigating narcotics operations in Southeast Asia. The researcher, Alfred W. McCoy, has aired his charges in the New York Times, Harper's Magazine and in a book scheduled for publication later this Fall. He has been the target of a rebuttal by CIA officials which has been characterized by the press as "intense and unusual."

Commenting on the disclosure, Congressman Reid noted that there have been persistent reports over the past few years of the CIA's clandestine involvement in narcotics trade.

"This is the first time that Congress and the American people have had the opportunity to review the fact with an independent researcher with experience in the field," Congressman Reid said. He added that it provides an excellent opportunity for the CIA and the State Department to answer the charges in a situation that will assure "credibility."

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